

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Previously Presented) A microwave communication network that overlays a
2 public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising:
3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which
4 overlays said public switched telephone network, said transceivers being geographically
5 located so as to provide a wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of
6 traffic normally carried by said PSTN between two or more central offices, tandem
7 switches or other premises controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC),
8 said wireless IOF being capable of providing an alternative communication path when
9 said ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of said central
10 offices, tandem switches or other premises.

1 2. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein one or
2 more of said microwave transceivers is located proximate to one or more of said central
3 offices, tandem switches or other premises.

1 3. – 6. Cancelled

1 7. (Previously Presented) A method of providing wireless bandwidth in a
2 microwave network which overlays a public switched telephone network (PSTN)
3 comprising the steps of:
4 (1) forming a microwave network from a plurality of microwave transceivers, said
5 microwave network overlaying said public switched telephone network;
6 (2) geographically arranging said transceivers so as to provide wireless
7 interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by said PSTN
8 between two or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by an
9 incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), said wireless IOF being capable of providing
10 an alternative communication path when said ILEC provides insufficient wireline
11 bandwidth between two or more of said central offices, tandem switches or other
12 premises, said wireless IOF being capable of providing an alternative communication
13 path when said ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of
14 said central offices, tandem switches or other premises.

1 8. (Previously Presented) A microwave communication network that overlays a
2 public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising:
3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which
4 overlays said public switched telephone network, said transceivers being geographically
5 located so as to provide a wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of
6 traffic normally carried by said PSTN between one or more central offices, tandem
7 switches or other premises controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) and

8 one or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by a common
9 carrier other than said ILEC, said wireless IOF being capable of providing an alternative
10 communication path when said ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between
11 two or more of said central offices, tandem switches or other premises, said wireless IOF
12 being capable of providing an alternative communication path when said ILEC provides
13 insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of said central offices, tandem
14 switches or other premises.

1 9. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein one or
2 more of said microwave transceivers is located proximate to one or more of said central
3 offices, tandem switches or other premises.

1 10. – 13. Cancelled

1 14. (Previously Presented) A method of providing wireless bandwidth in a microwave
2 network which overlays a public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising the
3 steps of:

4 (1) forming a microwave network from a plurality of microwave transceivers,
5 said microwave network overlaying said PSTN;

6 (2) geographically arranging said transceivers so as to provide wireless
7 interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by said PSTN
8 between one or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by an

9 incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) and one or more central offices, tandem
10 switches or other premises controlled by a common carrier other than said ILEC, said
11 wireless IOF being capable of providing an alternative communication path when said
12 ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of said central
13 offices, tandem switches or other premises.

1 15. (Currently Amended) A microwave communication network that overlays a
2 public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising:
3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which
4 overlays said PSTN, said transceivers being geographically located so as to provide a
5 wireless interoffice facility (IOF) being capable of providing an alternative
6 communication path to said PSTN for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by
7 said PSTN between two or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises
8 controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), wherein said wireless IOF
9 provides [being capable of providing] redundancy with respect to a failure of said
10 wireline portion of said PSTN.

1 16. (Currently Amended) A microwave communication network that overlays a
2 public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising:
3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which
4 overlays said PSTN, said transceivers being geographically located so as to provide a
5 wireless interoffice facility (IOF) being capable of providing an alternative

6 communication path to said PSTN for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by
7 said PSTN between two or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises
8 controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), wherein said wireless IOF
9 provides [being capable of providing] wireless bandwidth more cost effectively than
10 wireline bandwidth offered by said ILEC.

1 17. (Currently Amended) A microwave communication network that overlays a
2 public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising:
3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which
4 overlays said PSTN, said transceivers being geographically located so as to provide a
5 wireless interoffice facility (IOF) being capable of providing an alternative
6 communication path to said PSTN for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by
7 said PSTN between two or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises
8 controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), wherein said wireless IOF
9 provides [being capable of providing] service which is complementary to service
10 provided by said wireline portion of said PSTN.